12. (Newly Added) A lithium ion secondary battery comprising:

a negative electrode material consisting essentially of a graphite powder formed by graphitization at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C, the graphite powder comprising a carbon material containing about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron and having a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein the density of the interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/μm and not more than 1500/μm.

13. (Newly Added) A method for producing a graphite powder that includes about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron, the method comprising the steps of:

pulverizing a carbon material at least one of prior to carbonization and after carbonization;

heating the carbon material at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C thereby causing graphitization of the carbon material to occur, wherein boron is added to the carbon material prior to graphitization; and

forming a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein a density of interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/μm.

14. (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 wherein the carbon material is obtained by at least one of a carbonization of mesophase globules and bulk mesophase.

15. (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 wherein the carbon material is pulverized at a speed of not less than 5000 rpm.

16. (Newly Added) A method for producing a graphite powder that includes about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron, the method comprising the steps of:

pulverizing a carbon material at least one of prior to carbonization and after carbonization;

heating the carbon material at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C thereby causing graphitization of the carbon material to occur, wherein boron is added to the carbon material prior to graphitization;

heating the carbon material thereby causing scraping of a surface of the graphite powder;

heating the carbon material in an inert gas at a temperature not less than 800°C; and

forming a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein a density of interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/μm.

17. (Newly Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of heating the carbon material to cause scraping of the surface of the graphite powder includes oxidizing heat treatment.

Please cancel claims 4-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.